ACTION COPY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

35 R

ICGB

PAGE Ø1 LOME Ø3Ø91 Ø1 OF Ø2 Ø918ØØZ 1255 AF3119
ACTION AF-1Ø

ACTION OFFICE MUI I-1Ø
INFO /Ø1Ø A1

INFO OCT-Ø1 IO-14 ADS-ØØ PA-Ø1 ICAE-ØØ SS-15 NSCE-ØØ
HA-Ø5 H-Ø1 CIAE-ØØ INR-1Ø NSAE-ØØ /Ø57 W
-----------Ø96495 Ø91822Z /5Ø

P Ø917402 JUL 8Ø
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9486
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION Ø1 OF Ø2 LOME Ø3Ø91

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEFR, PINT, SHUM, PROG, TO, US
SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON JACK ANDERSON COLLUMNS

REFS: (A) STATE 178725, (B) STATE 179579,
(C) LOME 2929, (D) LOME 3072

1. AS WITH STATEMENTS AND ALLEGATIONS IN OLYMPIO-INSPIRED ARTICLE BY MOSSITER (REF C), SOME OF THOSE IN THE JACK ANDERSON ARTICLES OF JULY 7 AND 8 ARE TRUE, SOME ARE FALSE, AND SOME ARE HALF-TRUTHS. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THE FIRST TWO JACK ANDERSON ARTICLES FOLLOW.

2. JULY 7 ARTICLE PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 ARE MR. ANDERSON'S JOURNALISTIC STYLE. THE POPULATION FIGURE FOR TOGO IS APPROXIMATELY CORRECT, ALTHOUGH TODAY 2.5 MILLION IS THE FIGURE GENERALLY USED.

3. THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA IN PARA 4 IS APT EXCEPT FOR COMMENT THAT QUOTE HIS MASSIVE BULK IS TOO BIG FOR HIS STATURE UNQUOTE. EYADEMA IS BY MOST STANDARDS A WELL-BUILT MAN. HE IS LARGE BUT NOT FAT, AND IN PAST 6 MONTHS APPEARS TO HAVE SLIMMED DOWN.

4. ALTHOUGH SYCOPHANTS HERE MAY REFER TO HIS ESCAPE FROM THE SARAKAWA PLANE CRASH AS A MIRACLE APPROACHING THE RESURRECTION, EYADEMA HIMSELF STRESSES HIS HUMAN QUALITIES. IN PARDONING THOSE IN TOGO WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF ASSASSINATION AND COUP ATTEMPTS, HE HAS QUOTED THE BIBLE AND NOTED IT IS FOR GOD, NOT MAN, TO DECIDE ON ANOTHER MAN'S LIFE OR DEATH. PORTRAITS OF EYADEMA IN PUBLIC PLACES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES SHOW HIM IN A MILITARY UNIFORM WITH STANDARD SHOULDERBOARDS, OR IN A CIVILIAN SUIT. NONE HAS ANGEL WINGS. NORTH KOREAN-SUPPLIED PARTY BUTTONS BEAR EYADEMA'S PICTURE IN UNIFORM OR CIVILIAN GARB. THESE ARE FOR SALE AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND EVERY GOOD PARTY QUOTE MILITANT UNQUOTE WEARS ONE. OLDER PARTY MEMBERS AND EYADEMA HIMSELF WEAR AN EARLIER VERSION WHICH FEATURES THE SYMBOL OF THE PARTY, A TORCH, AGAINST A GREEN BACKGROUND.

5. EYADEMA'S SPEECHES ARE FEATURED ON TOGOLESE RADIO AND TELEVISION. EXCEPT FOR TAPES OF HIM MAKING THE SPEECH, PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCERS READ THEM. EYADEMA DOES NOT READ THE NEWS ON RADIO OR TELEVISION.

6. A SIMPLE MONUMENT WHICH ENCIRCLES WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE WHICH CRASHED HAS BEEN ERECTED AT SARAKAWA AND THE DATE OF JANUARY 24 IS A TOGOLESE HOLIDAY. THE COMIC-BOOK FORM OF THE SARAKAWA TALE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A COLLECTOR'S ITEM. RECENT ATTEMPTS TO BUY COPIES HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

7. EYADEMA IS REFERRED TO REGULARLY IN THE MEDIA AND

LOME Ø3Ø91 Ø1 OF Ø2 Ø918ØØZ 1255 AF3119

SPEECHES AS "GUIDE", "HELMSMAN", "LEADER OF THE NEW MARCH", OR "FATHER OF THE NEW TOGO". THE APPELATION "SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE" IS RARE. PARAGRAPHS 6 & 7 ARE FACTUAL EXCEPT FOR ALLEGATION OF EYADEMA'S BOASTING ABOUT HAVING KILLED SYLVANUS OLYMPIO. THOSE BY GILCHRIST OLYMPIO IN PARAGRAPH 8 ARE FAR-FETCHED. THERE IS NO DESERT IN TOGO IN WHICH A TRIBE COULD BE HELD, NOR HAVE QUOTE ENTIRE TRIBES UNQUOTE BEEN ROUNDED UP.

8. AT TIME OF DISCOVERIES OF AMUNITION AND ARMS IN LATE 1978 AND 1979, FAMILIES WHOSE RELATIVES WERE IMPLICATED IN THE PLANNED MERCENARY COUP WERE VILIFIED IN PUBLIC. MOST OF THOSE FAMILIES SUCH AS OLYMPIO, SANVI DE TOVI, AND DE SOUZA, HAD BRAZILIAN ANCESTORS AND THUS WERE LABELLED AS SUCH RATHER THAN AS TOGOLESE. SOME FAMILY MEMBERS STILL ARE SAID TO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING IDENTITY CARDS AND OTHERS HAVE LEFT TOGO, BUT MOST REMAIN AND ARE ACTIVE IN BUSINESS. PRESIDENT EYADEMA CONFIRMED HAVING SPOKEN ON THE TELEPHONE WITH AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST.

9. IN JULY 8 ARTICLE QUOTE IN PARA 7 IS OUT OF CONTEXT. AS PARA 11 NOTES, LETTER ON PARDONS OF PEOPLE CONDEMNED TO DEATH WAS TO ENCOURAGE LIBERALIZATION OF REGIME. THE LETTER WAS PRINTED ONLY ONCE IN TOGOLESE PRESS AND REPORTED ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, AS IS THE CUSTOM HERE FOR LETTERS TO AND FROM CHIEFS OF STATE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC BRANDISHING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER BY PRESIDENT EYADEMA.

10. ON PARAS 8 AND 9, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES VISITED TOGO IN 1977 AND ATTENDED THE MERCENARY TRIAL IN 1978. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 1978 AND 1979 REPORTS DO CITE SOME HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. A. I. HAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/27/83
EO [ ] XE [ ] EXT. DATE
TS [ ] (TS)
DECL: [ ] NLC/ACDS [✓]
RELEASE D[ ] [ ]
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 03091 02 OF 02 091759Z 1257 AF3120
ACTION AF-10

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION OFFICE MULT-10
INFO /010 A1

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /057 W
----------096494 091822Z /50

P 091740Z JUL 80
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9487
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LOME 03091

ALSO BEEN CRITICAL OF THE 1979 MERCENARY TRIALS BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO PUBLISHED REPORT. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE FREEDOM HOUSE HAS NOT SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO TOGO TO BACK UP ITS ASSESSMENT IN PARA 9. JOHNSON

UNCLASSIFIED